

Ralph Torres

Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres (born August 6, 1979) is an American Republican politician from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. He has served as the ninth Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands since the death of Governor Eloy Inos on December 29, 2015. He previously served as the tenth Lieutenant Governor, having been elected to that post in 2014,^[1] and as CNMI Senate President from February 2013.

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Background and personal life

Torres graduated from Boise High School in 1996. He received a BS in Political Science from Boise State University in 2001.^[2] In 2004, he began to work with his brother at Torres Brothers, Attorneys at Law.

Torres has six children with his wife, the former Diann Mendiola Tudela: Ralph Anthony, Vaniqua Marie, Deon Titus, Tristan Dane, Divannie and Ryan.^[2] Torres is of Chamorro ancestry.

Political career

Commonwealth Legislature

In 2008, Torres won the election to the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives. In 2010, he won the election to the Northern Mariana Islands Senate, acting in a variety of roles. From 2010 to 2015 he was Chairman of the Health & Welfare Committee. In February 2013, he became the President of the Senate.^[2]

Ralph Torres



9th Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands

Incumbent

Assumed office

December 29, 2015

Lieutenant Victor Hocog
Arnold Palacios

Preceded by Eloy Inos

10th Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands

In office

January 12, 2015 – December 29, 2015

Governor Eloy Inos

Preceded by Jude Hofschneider

Succeeded by Victor Hocog

President of the Northern Mariana Islands Senate

In office

February 20, 2013 – January 12, 2015

Preceded by Jude Hofschneider

Succeeded by Victor Hocog

Personal details

Lieutenant Governorship

As half of the winning ticket in the 2014 gubernatorial election,^[1] Torres became Lieutenant Governor on January 12, 2015.

Governorship

Upon the death of incumbent Governor Eloy Inos, Torres became the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands on December 29, 2015.^{[3][4]} In accordance with the constitution, the Senate president, Victor Hocog, became Lieutenant Governor.^[5]

Torres approved a bill, public law 19-42, that adds a \$1,000 excise tax on pistol purchases, this is the highest tax on pistols sales in the US.^[6] However this excessive tax was later ruled as unconstitutional according to the United States Constitution and over turned by the United States District Court.^[7]

In February 2018, *Bloomberg Businessweek* reported that Torres and his family have received millions of dollars in payments from Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific casino.^[8]

On November 7, 2019, the FBI executed a search and seizure warrant to raid Torres' office, home, and car as well as his brothers' law firm and various other businesses across Saipan for evidence of wire fraud, schemes to defraud, conspiracy, money laundering, and illegal campaign contributions. ^[9]

In November 2019 the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives called for the impeachment of Torres amid an ongoing investigation by the FBI into his businesses.^[10]

Torres faced further impeachment backlash with growing evidence of the misuse of local funds that violated CNMI procurement laws. ^{[11][12]}

See also

- Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Born	<div>Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres</div> August 6, 1979 <div> Garapan, Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</div>
Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	<div>Diann Mendiola Tudela</div>
Children	6
Education	Boise State University (BA)

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External links

- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?ralphortres>) on C-SPAN

Political offices		
Preceded by <u>Jude Hofschneider</u>	<u>Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands</u> 2015	Succeeded by <u>Victor Hocog</u>
Preceded by <u>Eloy Inos</u>	<u>Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands</u> 2015–present	Incumbent
Party political offices		
Preceded by <u>Eloy Inos</u>	<u>Republican nominee for Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands</u> 2018	Most recent

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